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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980; AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

M) (18 Oct 68) FOR OT RD 683208

28 October 1968

SUBLECT:

rarational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 307th must Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1968 (U)

SEE DIS.

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- 1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
- 2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure that the Army realizes current benefits from lessons learned during recent operations.
- 3. To insure that the information provided through the Lessons Learned Program is readily available on a continuous basis, a cumulative Lessons Learned Index containing alphabetical listings of items appearing in the reports is compiled and distributed periodically. Recipients of the attached report are encouraged to recommend items from it for inclusion in the Index by completing and returning the self-addressed form provided at the end of this report.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

1 Incl

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS, 307TH COMBAT AVIATION (PHANTON) BATTALION APO San Francisco 96256

AVBN-P

15 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFCR-65 (RI)

1. SECTION I CTERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVIPIES

- a. (U) Mission: There has been no change in the battalion's missions or area of operation.
- b. (U) Organisation: There were no changes in the primary subordinate units assigned to the battalion. There was an addition of three Quartermaster Detachments and the reassignment of a Signal (Avionics) Detachment from Battalion resources. This resulted in changes in the following subordinate unit organizations.
- (1) (U) The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion with the 5th, 52nd, 53rd and 62nd Quartermaster Detachments attached, stationed at Soc Treng, RVN (APO San Francisco 96296)
- (2) (U) The 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company (0-1) stationed at Soc Trang, RVN (APO San Francisco 96296)

(Sca Complete Organization and Stationing Chart, Incl 1)

- c. Command Group Ferechnel:
- (1) (U) The battalion had several key personnel changes in the command group and among the subordinate units. The composition of the battalion staff has stabilised. The influx of personnel throughout the battalion has generally reduced the personnel turbulance which was caused by having to shift personnel to man key positions. There are no significant peak retained humps fureseen in efficer and warrant efficer catagories; however, there are peaks in enlisted strength which will be resolved in the coming quarter with an infusion program.
 - (2) (C) Composition of the Battalion Command Group:

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FOR OT RD 683208

AVEN-P
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (phantom)
Battalian for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65

POSITION	RAPIX	NAME	SN	ASSIGNED	RELEASED
Commander	LTC	Charles F Hutchins	077053	21 Dec 67	13 Jul 68
	LTC	Charles N Allgood	061433	13 Jul 63	N/A
Exec Off	LTC	Alvin E. Walker	C95640	6 Jun 63	N/A
S-1	MAJ	Cornell L UllMan	05704872	10 Nov 67	24 May 68
	MAJ	John A Duff	089909	28 May 68	N/A
S-2	MAJ	Curtis J Herrick	090064	23 Jan 68	30 Jun 68
	MAJ	Joe D Berry	OF106058	13 Jul 68	E/A
S-3	MAJ	Jos D Berry	OF106058	3 Dec 67	13 Jul 68
	MAJ	Lemard I. Boswall	073572	13 Jul 58	N/A
S-4	MAJ	Samuel P Musa	02014450	12 Dac 37	31 Jul 48
Signal.	CPT	Walter G Hicks	05317127	14 Feb 68	13 May 68
	111	Joseph S Smith	05537569	13 May 68	N/A
A/C Maint	CPT	Harold L Boyd	72314491	15 Jun 68	N/A
Safety	No Cha				

- (3) (C) Subordinate Unit Commanders: (Changes)
- (a) Commanding Officer, 179th Reconnaissance Airplane Company: Major John S. Jacob, OF104022, commanded from 1 December 1967 to 10 July 1968; Major Robert S. Borer, 091556, assumed command 10 July 1968 to the present.
- (b) Commanding Officer, 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company: LTC James R. Mellish, C71229, commanded from 1 December 1967 to 28 July 1968; Major Robert W. Hornaday, O91873, assumed command 28 July 1968 to the present.
- (c) Commanding Officer, 235th Armed Helicepter Company: Major Charles D. Gordon, 04030590, commanded from 29 February 1968 to 27 July 1963; Major William R. Lenderman, 079596, assumed command 27 July 1968 to the present.
- d. Unit Strength as of 31 July 1968 and Casualty Statistics for Quarter Enging 31 July 1968:
 - (1) (C) Military:

Subordinate	offi	cer	WC)	EN	1	Tot	al			
<u>Unit</u>	Anth	O/H	Auth	C/H	Auth	D/H	Auth	O/H	MIV	KIA	MIA
199th RAC	32	33	1	0	95	99	128	132	6		
221st	41	38	1	2	114	107	156	14?	3		

AVBN-P SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom) Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

Subordinate	Offi	.cer	WC)	E	1	Tot	al			
Unit	Auth	O/H	Auth	O/H	Auth	O/H	Auth	O/H	WIA	KIA	MIA
235th AHC	16	10	41	29	211	222	268	261	2	0	0
2/4 th SAC	16	29	21	2	321	295	358	327	0	0	0
HHG 307th	13	19	3	2	83	95	109	116	0	O	0
307 CAB Total	123	129	67	35	829	919	1019	983	11	0	0

(2) (C) Civilians:

Subordinate Ucids	DAC Auth	O/H	V. Auth	0/H	3rd N Auth	at'1 0/H	Cont:	o/H
199th RAC	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0
221st RAC	0	Ô	3	1	0	0	0	0
235th AHC	0	0	3	1	0	0	11	11
244th SAC	0	0	33	33	0	0	10	10
HHC 307th	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0
307 CAB Total	0	0	46	40	0	0	21	21

e. (U) Awards and Decorations for Quarter Ending 31 July 1968;

AWARD	MAY	JUNE	JULY	TOTAL
Distinguished Flying Cross	25	20	1	46
Distinguished Service Medal	0	0	0	6
Silver Star	3	4	0	7
Eronze Star	2	16	8	26
Bronne Star "V"	22	9	5	36
Air Medal	229	383	91	703
Ann Medal "V"	28	15.	85	128
Army Commendation Medal	12	24	11	47
Army Commendation Medal "V"	18	59	1	78
Purple Heart	4	3	4	11

f. (C) Aircraft Status as of 31 July 1968:

Subordinate Unit	UH-1 Auth O/H	AH-1G Auth O/H	OV-1 Auth O/H	~	-1 O/H	U- Auth	•	OH-6A Auth O/H
199th RAC 221th RAC				21 ₄ 32		0	1	

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AVEN-P
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFCR-65 (RI)

U-6. Subardinate UH-1 AH-1G OV-1 Unit Auth O/H Auth O/H Auth O/H Auth O/H Auth O/H 235th AHC 3 2 21 23 0 244th SAC 18 18 1 0 1 11Q 307 CAB 2 0 0 1 307 CAB Total 5 0 2 2 21 23 18 18 56 52 4 45 2 Avg Availability 12 14 1

g. Operational Support and Moents:

- (1) (U) The reporting period has been one of relative quiet in the Dolta. Enemy finitiated incidents fell during the month of May and June to pre-Tet levels. The month of July saw a slight increase over May and June, but still the trend was downward. The battalion posture was offensive in nature during this period. Maximum use of the reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities were made with the battalion assets in an attempt to find and fix the enemy.
- (2) (U) On 13 July 1968, the command of the battalion passed from LTC Charles F. Hutchins to LTC Charles N. Allgood. The ceremony took place at Soc Trang Army Airfield, RVN, and was attended by Col Eugene B. Conrad, the Deputy Commander, 1st Aviation Brigade and Col Worthington M. Mahone, Commanding Officer of the 164th Cbt Avn Gp.
- (3) (C) The major consolidated battalion offensive effort continued under the title of "Delta Falcan." This was a continuation of the day and night interdiction mission of the enemy infiltration and commo-liaison routes from Cambodia initiated at the baginning of March 1968. The assignment of 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron (-) at Vinh Long in June 1968 enabled the battalion to be released from this mission of a true air cavalry type mission. The phase-in of the squadron was accomplished by placing a troop under the supervision of the 307th CAB for approximately a month until the Squadron was operational. The 307th CAB still supports this concept during the hours of darkness by teaming two Mohawks from the battalion with a heavy fire team of Cobras (3 AH-1G's) from the air cavalquadron on a mission basis.
- (4) (C) With the release of the assets of the battalion from the Delta Falcon mission, the battalion shifted emphasis from the Cambedian

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AVEN-P

AVENUE 15 August 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalian for the Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

border area to the Ca Mam peninsula. During the early part of June. Operation Phantom III was initiated. This concept was essentially the same as Dalta Falcon; however, no assets were immediately available for follow-up ground action. The primary mission was to interdict and harass the supply routes and commo-liaison routes originating in lower An Xuyan Sector and proceeding northward. The operation is conducted in random selected areas and unscheduled Gates.

- (5) (U) The 0-1 units have continued to provide the eyes down at user level in the IV Corps. The assignment of the C-1's (Incl 3) at province and ARVN Division headquarters has materially aided the American advisors in their attempt to evaluate and procure intelligence of immediate value. Though the fragmentation of the 0-1 company has created a command and control problem not common to an aviation company, it is felt the results and rapport obtained in support of the ground forces is worth the extra effort expended to overcome the problem.
- (6) (C) The battalion Mohawk company contributes heavily to the IV. Corps intelligence effort in a highly professional fashion. The OV-1 ecverage of the Delta averages 75% coverage nightly. Targets detected are immediately called in to the province TOC's over which the aircraft are flying. All of the information is forwarded to the IV Corps Q-2 Air during missions through the data processing station located at Can Tho. The evaluation of imagery and photos is also processed at Can Tho following missions and forwarded immediately to the G-2 Air.
- (7) (6) The following statistics show the effort expended in support of the Corps surveillance plan:

SORTIES FLOWN FROM 1 MAY TO 31 JULY 1968

Ty a Acft	VR.	Photo	IR	SLAR
0-1 CV-1	93.15 176	57 148	907	492
	2421	203	309	492

(8) (0) The 235th Armed Helicopter Company, still the army's only separate, non-divisional type, completely armed helicopter company, is acquitting itself to a most admirable manner. The availability rate of the AH-IC is fast increasing as a result of the build up of a proper ASI/III. The AH-IC continues to be able to perform all missions

AVBN-P

15 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Fhantom)
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

previously performed by UH1-B/C gunships; however, the ability to move in and conduct primary reconnaissance missions in a manner typified by the older gunships has resulted in a disapprepriate share of combat damage. This ting the emphasis to the attack role of the AH-1G and capitalizing on its stand off attack capability appears to hold good promise for even more satisfactory results. There still appears to be a need for a gunship which can remain down low supporting the ground forces, yet not becoming as vulnerable or susceptible to major combat damage.

- (9) (U) The battalian has accomplished all assigned combat and direct combat support missions assigned during the reporting period. There is no doubt the battalian has contributed to the stabilization effort of IV Corps and can continue to operate in an effective and satisfactory fashion. Statistics generated in support of its mission are in Incl 2.
- 2. SECTION II LESSONS LEARNED: COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
 - a. Personnol: None.
 - b. Operations:
 - (1) (C) Transponder Equipment for O-1 Aircraft.
- (a) OBSERVATION. The O-1 aircraft do not always paint a positive target for area radar control agencies.
- (b) EVALUATION. The O-1 aircraft operate on the majority of missions day and night as single aircraft. The missions for the most part cover isolated areas far removed from friendly positions. The Army flight following agencies offer radio flight following only; however, the Air Force area radar can offer positive control when it becomes necessary to fly through IFR conditions or when flying over extremely isolated and remote areas. On many occasions the area radar service has to be terminated when being vectored around weather or when the skin paint of the O-1 target becomes lost due to its relative small size. There exists a definite need to have transponders installed on the O-1 aircraft for flight following purposes and as an added advantage the identification of friendly aircraft under combat conditions.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION. That a retrofit program be initiated to install the larest, lightweight version of a transpender in the 6-1 aircraft.

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AVEN-P
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RG3 CSFOR-65 (RI)

- (2) (C) Aviation Assets Used to Maintain Contact During Hours of Darkness.
- (a) OBSERVATION. The OV-1 sensing equipment can detect the withdrawal of enemy forces from the battle area after contact has been broken during the hours of darkness.
- (b) EVALUATION. Utilizing the OV-1 and teaming with AH-1G's, contact with the enemy during retrograde movements can be maintained. It has been noted that ground forces making contact with the Viet Cong have habitually been extracted during the hours just prior to darkness. After subset the Viet Cong apparently board sampans and depart the immediate area. By using the "Snake Hunt" concept, cortact can be maintained; destruction of the enemy and a slow-down of his movement will result.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That this concept be tested and given full dissemination as soon as practable.
 - (3) (C) Use of the Proximity Fuze (XM-429) Against Selected Targets.
- (a) OBSERVATION. Warheads fuzed with the (XM-429) proximity fuze are more lethal against sampans moving on water than the (M-423) point detonating fused warheads.
- (b) EVALUATION. The attack helicopters of this battalion have flown numerous sorties on interdiction missions against water borne transportation. The use of the (M-423) point detonating fuzed rockets is effective primarily as an area fire weapon, and their use against single sampars has resulted in a waste of ammunition. The introduction of the (XM-429) proximity fuze has greatly increased the effect of the rockets and the shrapnel effect compared to the older fuze, which explades only when it hits the water of sampan.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That the proximity fuze be used against individual type targets such as sampans which require a strike to neutralize. That mission commanders specify the type ammunition mix required to support their particular mission during pre-mission briefings.
 - c. Training: None.

9

- d. Intelligence: None.
- •. (3) <u>Nyistics</u>: <u>Malfunction of the KS-61 System With MK122A-1</u>
 Flash Cartridges.

AVBN-P
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

- (1) OBSERVATION. Difficulty has been experienced in night photography using the KS-61 camera system and the MK122A-1 photo flash cartridges.
- (2) EVALUATION. This unit has had difficultly procurring usable imagery from night photography. Frames were either overlapped with others or large blank spaces occurred between frames. Checks of the film drive system produced negligible results. The unit received a rebuilt CV-1A, and checks were made of this system using a stobe light at night. This sytem worked correctly, and good imagery was obtained. It was determined that on aircraft that had been in RVN over six months, the photo flash detection system was deteriorated and would not detect the flash correctly. An EIR has been submitted.
- (3) RECOMMENDATION. That a cover be fabricated and placed over the cell detector to prevent deterioration during the day and when the system is not in use. That a system check be adopted using a strobe light at night halfway between the cell and tail of the aircraft to see if the detection system will activate itself.
- f. (C) Organization: Tack of Organizational Signal Ationics
 Personnel.
- (1) OBSERVATION. O-1 companies deployed in Vietnam are void of organizational signal axionics personnel (MCS 35K).
- (2) EVALUATION. O-1 companies presently deployed in Vietnam are constituted by combining portions of several TCE's under a General Order. In some instances this order includes a signal avionics detachment (TOE 11 500D), in others none is authorized. The companies are not authorized organizational signal avionics personnel (MOS 35L). This is also true of the avionics detachment which is manned to perform "bench" repair of components (MOS 35L). Actually the detachment does perform organizational maintenance since they are normally the only signal personnel available. This situation does not exist in the Assault Helicopter Company (TOE 1-77G) where two organizational signal avionics personnel (MOS 35K) are included in the company headquarters. This situation becomes critical in units without avionics detachments or when assigned avionics detachments are detached.
- (3) RECOMMENDATION. That MTCE's presently under study for Reconnaissance Airplane Companies include a minimum of two organizational avionics repairmen (MOS 35K) in their organizations.
 - g. (U) Other (Scitts): Securing Smoke Grenades in the Cockpit.

11

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 3C7th Combat Aviation (Phantem)

Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1568, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

- (1) OBSERVATION. As a result of a fatal accident caused by a smoke grenade dropped in the aircraft cockpit, it was found that in many aircraft these grenades were secured merely by suspending them by their safety clip to the grand or bar protecting the instrument switches. Should the cotter pin become disengaged from the grenade, the safety clip would release and the grenade would ignite.
- (2) EVALUATION. It was found that smoke granades would fit securely into octogonal shaped rocket fin covers. Cutting these down to a size of 6" and installing them in the aircraft provided a secure and safe means of carrying smoke granades and eliminated any danger should the cotter key become dislodged. The granade safety clip will remain securely held in place in the container oven if the cotter key is accidently removed.

3 Incl

1. Organization & Stationing

2. Operational Statistics

3. Station List

CHARLES N. ALLGOOD

LTC S

Commanding

AVGN (15 Aug 68) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968 RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

DA, HQ, 164TH AVIATION GROUF, APO 96215 25 August 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

- 1. The attached 307th CAB ORLL for the period ending 31 July 1968 has been evaluated by this headquarters as required by USARV Reg 525-15.
- 2. Section II, Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations Evaluations and Recommendations.
- a. Transponder Equipment for 0-1 Aircraft. Non-concur with recommendation to install transponders in 0-1 aircraft.
- b. Although a transponder would be a most desirable accessory in the O-1 aircraft, it is not an essential piece of equipment. The space weight and power provisions are not available in the O-1 and a transponder modification kit would further complicate an already marginal gross weight condition. The principle behind the transponder is sound, however impractical for a visual reconnaissance aircraft which normally operates habitually over a small region with continuous flight following with a local ground unit or Army flight following facility. Since the aircraft was neither originally designed or equipped for IFR flight, any attempt to upgrade the system would only lead to additional weight and performance penalties. Adequate radio flight following facilities are available on a continuous basis and search radars are available to assist in emergencies.
- 3. With the exception listed in paragraph 2 above, concur with the commander's observations, evaluations and recommendations.

(s)Worthington M. Mahone (t)WCRTHINGTON M. MAHONE Colonel, Infantry Commanding

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AVBA-C (15 Aug 68) 2d Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom) Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (F1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384 SEP 5 1968

- THEU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVEGO-DET APO 96375

 Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOF-CT, APO 96558
- TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20310
- 1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with the contents as informed except as follows:

Paragraph lg(8), page 5. The 307th Combat tviation Pattalion is in error by stating that the 235th Armed Helicopter Company is still the Army's only separate armed helicopter company. There are in fact two additional armed helicopter companies now assigned to the 1st tviation Brigade.

2. (U) The following additional comment is considered pertinent:

Paragraph 2f(3), page 8. The standardized MTCE (1-257?) for all PAC units submitted in late 1967 by this headquarters did not include MCS 35%. This HQs is evaluating the problem to determine if avionics repairmen are required in all 0-1 units assigned. If a requirement exists for MOS 35% in all 0-1 Companies, a change to the standardized MTCE will be initiated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JOHN D. MIXSELL, M.

CPT. AGG.
Assistant Adjutant General

15

AVHCC-DST (15 Aug 68) 3d Ind (U) MAJ Klingman/ds/4433 SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom) Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 1 1 SEP 1965

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GFOP-DT, APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1968 from Headquarters, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion, and concurs with the report as modified by the preceding indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W.C. ACK W.C. ARNTZ ILT, AGC Assistant Adjutan Constal

Cy furn: HQ let Avn Bde HQ 307th CAB

GPOP-DT (15 Aug 68) 4th Ind (C)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 307th Combat Aviation Bn
for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)(U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 70CT 1961

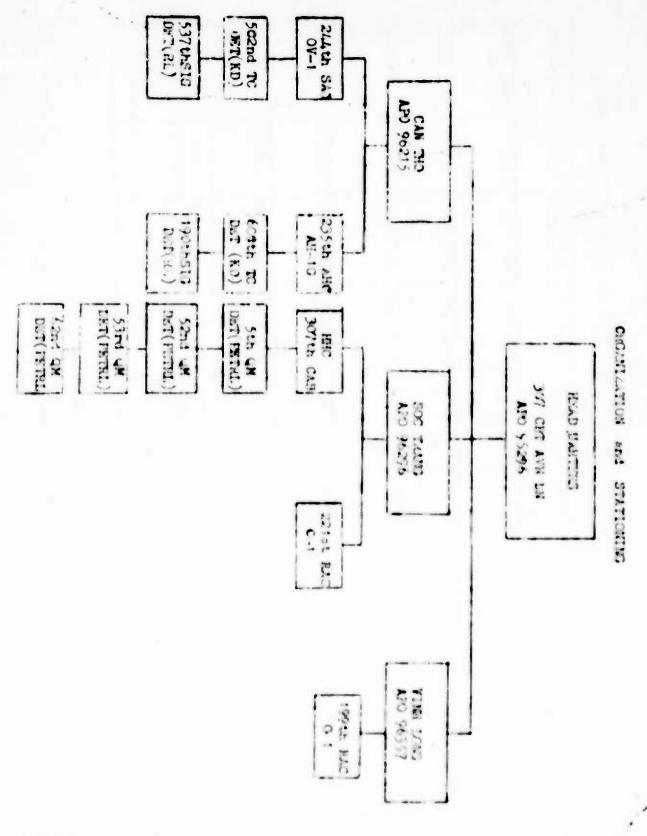
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

- 1. (U) This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.
- 2. (C) Reference 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2: For planning purposes, all aircraft in a combat zone should have a transponder incorporating the "Identification Friend or Foe" (IFF) feature. Under current combat operational conditions, with no enemy air threat, low flying, low performance light aircraft may be excluded.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

CHILLIAN SHORTT

Cy furnished: CGUSARV

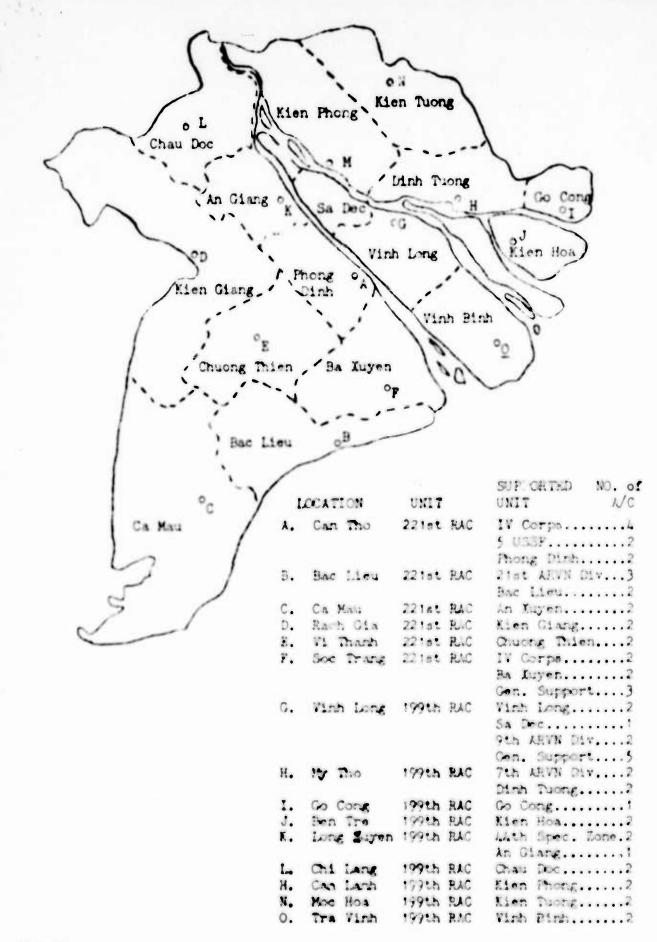


Incl 1

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Incl 3

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Operational Report - Lessons Le	earned, 307th	Combat Av	iation Battalion (U)				
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CO, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion							
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The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Lessons Learned Index:

9
A short (one sentence or phrase) description of the

: That page on which the item of interest is located.